

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Medical services coming back



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Maj. (Dr.) Gina Vitiello, a pediatrician with the 81st MDOS, talks with a young patient in the pediatric clinic, temporarily located in the dental clinic.

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Medics of the 81st Medical Group continue efforts to provide care to the Keesler community in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Several clinics became operational Monday in temporary settings provided at the dental clinic, Building 824.

The pediatric, family practice and internal medicine clinics, life skills and the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron's flight medicine clinic, are "up and running," according to Maj. Arthur Durkin, 81st Medical Operations Squadron senior nurse executive. They're providing basic medical care only to all Tricare Prime enrollees still enrolled to Keesler.

Optometry service is also available Monday in the flight medicine clinic.

No obstetrical services are available at this time.

A first aid station for active-duty members is open around the clock seven days a week in the clinical research laboratory, Building 404. The station doesn't have emergency room services.

Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Clinics are open but minimally manned on compressed work schedule Fridays. Presently, there's no phone service. Check-in is at the dental clinic desk. Appointment capability is in development.

"We've been attempting to contact our high-

Please see **Medics**, Page 9

Capasso next Keesler commander

Keesler Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, a former student at Keesler, returns later this year to take command of the 81st Training Wing from Brig. Gen. William Lord.

The date of the change of command has not been determined.

General Lord has been selected to become director of Information, Services and Integration, Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting

Integration and Chief Information Officer, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

General Capasso comes to Keesler from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he's director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, Transportation Command.

A 1978 graduate of the Air Force Academy, General Capasso is no stranger to Keesler. He attended the basic communications-electronics course in 1979, the telecom-

munications staff officer course in 1984-85 and the Air Force Institute of Technology off-site at the University of Southern Mississippi-Keesler in 1985.

General Lord, who was selected for promotion in May, assumes the rank of major general in his new position. The 1977 graduate of the Air Force Academy has commanded the 81st TRW

Please see **Capasso**, Page 9



General Capasso

COMMENTARY

Blue Star Service Banner

War on terrorism spurs comeback

By Judith Taylor

59th Medical Wing historian
LACKLAND Air Force Base, Texas — They hang in windows, cling to cars and sit on lapels. They're displayed in times of armed conflict and tell the world of a family's pride in their military member.

I'm talking about the Blue Star Service Banner.

The first banner was designed and patented by Capt. Robert Queissner in 1917. He was an Army officer with the 5th Ohio Infantry and had two sons serving on the front line.

His design consisted of a blue star displayed on a field of white and sewn onto a red banner. Each star indicated a member of the immediate family in the military. When a service member was killed in action, a gold star was sewn over the blue. It remains so today.

These unofficial banners became instantly popular. On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record, "...the mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor

of Ohio have officially adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest things in all the world to a father and mother — their children."

Most fashionable during World War I were felt banners embroidered with both the blue star and the corps in which the military member was serving. For example, the Signal Corps banner had the word "Signal" across the top and was accompanied by crossed flags.

Made of wool, many World War I banners have become meals for munching bugs over the years. Consequently, as they approach the 100-year mark many of these banners haven't survived.

With World War II, there was an explosion in the use of service banners. So much so the Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of banners, as well as guidelines on who could display them and wear service lapel pins. These measures apparently did little good as evidenced by the wide range of styles in World

War II service banners.

As in World War I, many banners indicated a specific branch of service and might be accompanied by a "V" for victory, a flag, wings, anchor, stripes, airplane, eagle, etc. Variations were limited only by the imagination.

With large numbers of young men and women serving during World War II, many companies also displayed service star banners honoring those employees on active duty. Large banners, many with dozens of stars, hung prominently in businesses and factories across the United States.

Some banners showed a family's or business's patriotism. Others were souvenir-like and usually indicated where someone was serving. Still others sported poems.

The popularity of the Blue Star Service Banner declined in use during the Korean conflict and almost disappeared during the Vietnam era. However, since the beginning of the war on terrorism, they've been making a welcome comeback.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. William Lord

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

Thumbs up, club, medics!

Comment — We recently left Keesler for another assignment.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Peggy Fairley of the Keesler Club for taking care of my special diet while we were at Keesler. She always made sure I got an appropriate meal.

I also want to thank the Keesler Medical Center staff for the superb professional care they gave me during a stay there.

Response — Thanks for recognizing the efforts of our club and medical center staffs.

Both groups take a personal interest and pride in providing the best service possible.

Working out frustration

Comment — I work out on the treadmills and the other machines at Blake Fitness Center.

The walkman units attached to each piece of equipment hardly ever work. They have all those nice TVs, but you can't hear them.

No one I talk to seems to know when they will be fixed.

Response — Unfortunately, the cardio theater receivers on the cardiovascular machines aren't very customer-friendly and are often "reset" inadvertently by the customers themselves.

When using the receivers, be sure to hit only one button at a time. Any time two buttons are hit at once, the machine goes into a "reprogram" mode.

Six new treadmills were installed just before Hurricane Katrina. They're equipped with state-of-the-art LCD touch screens and built-in TVs and radios on the console.

Handicapped parking violation

Comment — Someone who's not handicapped has been using the handicapped parking space on the east side of Wolfe Hall for months.

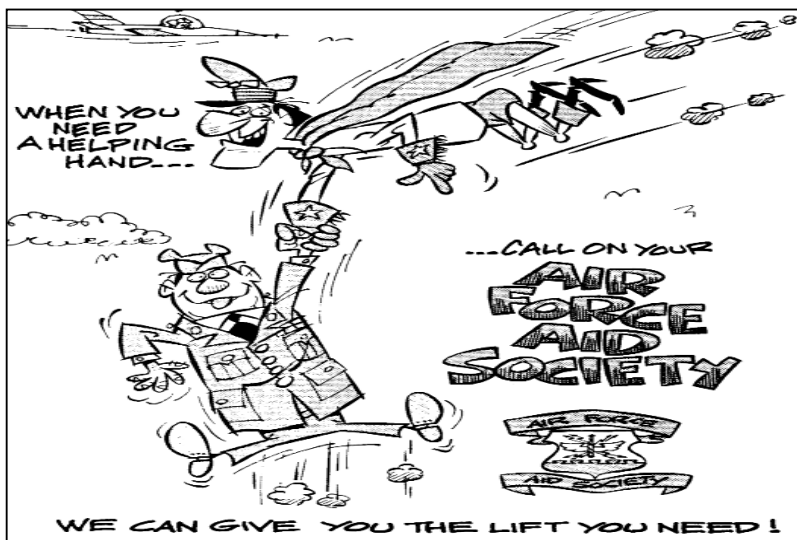
This has been reported to the 81st Security Forces Squadron several times. The response is, it should be turned over to the ticket warden for the building.

Parking should be monitored by the 81st SFS, not building occupants.

Response — By regulation, commanders, first sergeants and others approved by the security forces chief, are authorized to issue tickets for parking violations around their duty areas.

If you see a violation, contact the building parking warden. You can also report illegal parking that presents a safety hazard or impedes other vehicles to the 81st SFS.

If you feel you're not receiving the customer service you deserve, call 377-3070 or 7212.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman Luke Carnathan, left, trains on a GRT-22 ground radio transmitter with Tech. Sgt. Ryan Craig, an instructor in the 338th TRS. Students train on the GRT-22, used in air traffic control, in the new airfield systems course now slated to begin in December.

Aftermath of hurricane delays new airfield systems course

By Dale Riggins

338th Training Squadron

Hurricane Katrina has delayed the launch of a new course in the 338th Training Squadron.

The squadron's special training and technologies flight's new airfield systems course was supposed to begin this month, but a shortage of students in the storm's aftermath has shifted the start date to December.

The course is the result of last October's Air Force's utilization and training workshop that moved mission elements from Air Force specialty 2E1X3, ground radio, to AFS 2E1X2, meteorological and navigation systems, creating the new airfield systems career field.

The new career field realignment affects more than 2,800 maintenance technicians. Field units merge April 30.

The scope of the mission transfer includes maintenance of airfield communications

systems, excluding air traffic control radar systems.

This initial skills course lasts 110 training days. It offers training on airfield systems equipment, including meteorological, navigation and air traffic control communications systems.

Students learn to align, calibrate and troubleshoot an instrument landing system, very high frequency omnirange system, tactical air navigation systems, automatic meteorology station, digital voice recorders, enhanced terminal voice switches, and very high frequency and ultra high frequency transmitters, receivers and transceivers.

Students also receive training in the use of test equipment including oscilloscopes, frequency counters, signal generators, digital multimeters, voltmeters, wattmeters, spectrum analyzers, distortion analyzers, power meters, audio oscillators and telephone test sets.

Training also includes safety, operational risk management, the core automated maintenance system, technical orders, schematics, air expeditionary force procedures and flight inspection and facility certification information.

The course will have strong air expeditionary force emphasis. Students actually deploy, setup and operate an AN/TRN-41 mobile TACAN and an AN/TRC-176 transceiver.

To prepare for the new course in Jones Hall, storerooms were converted, classrooms revamped and new furniture acquired. The remodeling project added two more classrooms, which allows the class frequency to be increased so Block 3 productivity is tripled.

Directing the progress of the new course is Lt. Col. Christopher Cook, 338th TRS commander; Terry Campbell, airfield systems course training manager, and Maj. John Kiskack, special training and technologies flight commander.

366th TRS detachment on road to recovery

By 1st Lt. Michael Adkins

366th Training Squadron

SHEPPARD Air Force Base, Texas — In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the 366th Training Squadron's Detachment 6 located in Gulfport, Miss., was left devastated.

Of 37 permanent party members, five lost nearly everything. The detachment has started to rebuild and has continued to receive support from here throughout the entire ordeal.

"Our first priority was accountability of everyone from student to family member," said Lt. Col. Dave Caffee, 366th TRS commander. "Once we achieved 100 percent accountability, we focused on moving our families to a safe haven until the community recovered to the point they can safely return."

Staff Sgt. Pat Grames and his family suffered loss from water damage and relocated here with his family temporarily. His family was quickly welcomed, put into base housing and given the proper medical care for his special needs child.

The sergeant said he was extremely grateful for being moved out of the terrible living conditions on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and into Wichita Falls. His wife is from a small city and it made the transition smoother having a warm feeling of home.

With Maj. Tom Rietkerk, Det. 6 commander, at the helm, Colonel Caffee said the team has already begun temporary repairs on housing and training facilities.

"I'm proud of the work Major

Rietkerk and his detachment is doing despite the tremendous adversities they have faced," the colonel said. "They are working very hard with the Navy to bring the training back on line as fast as possible."

The intent is to be fully mission-capable by January. The Navy's estimated cost to repair and replace the damaged training facilities is more than \$67 million.

Despite the austere conditions and unrelenting heat and humidity, Det. 6 helped Gulfport's cleanup and recovery efforts after the storm. Structural civil engineer students removed debris from two housing areas and aided in the safe evacuation of retired veterans from the Navy retirement home.

The 366th TRS assembled a 14-man team made up of civil engineers to

send to Gulfport in order to assess the damage and assist in fixing the facilities there and get training up and running as soon as possible.

Although the Navy is taking the lead as the host of the Naval Construction Battalion Center-Gulfport, the detachment continues to work on training facilities, assisting the Navy by providing instructors for a temporary relocation of the Navy's structural course to Port Hueneme, Calif.

"We've also sent a site survey team to Port Hueneme to investigate the potential of temporarily setting up the Air Force-specific portion of the structural course," Colonel Caffee said. "We are now evaluating the survey results. We expect a decision within the next couple of weeks."

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can now request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request directly from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal. Members are required to log on through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New "My AFVEC" users are required to create an account.

Upon successful registration, Air Force members can select the "Request TA" option to begin the process of requesting tuition assistance. In addition, a PowerPoint tutorial has been made available in this section to provide instructions on how to process an online TA application.

It's important that members know and enter basic course registration information in the online TA request.

Troops to Teachers

For general information on Troops to Teachers, visit <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/index2.htm>.

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Physical therapy class

Applications are accepted through Nov. 25 at the Air Force Personnel Center for the doctor of physical therapy program.

The class begins Dec. 17 at the Health Sciences Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ravin McCray, 377-9630.

Physician assistants

Phase I physician assistant training classes begin in January, April and August 2007.

Only active-duty enlisted Airmen are eligible to apply.

Completed applications must be sent by military personnel flights and arrive by Jan. 27 at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

For more information, call the military personnel flight or education office or visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/medical/BSC/Education/PAapplication.htm>.

Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec>.

[langley.af.mil](https://afvec.langley.af.mil), or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

Enlisted-to-AFIT

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Institute of Technology offers noncommissioned officers a chance to earn an advanced science, engineering or management degree.

These onsite AFIT programs are available at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

For more information, visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/> or e-mail robert.hale@pentagon.af.mil.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, to create My-AFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

With the tools, people can request Community College of the Air Force transcripts, track receipt of civilian transcripts, view degree progress reports and check if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

NEWS AND FEATURES

New chief of staff shares vision of Air Force's future

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — To determine the way ahead, one must understand the heritage and history of the Air Force.

That was the message of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Moseley to the Air Force Association's 2005 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition here Sept. 14.

During his address, the general cited many of the founding fathers of air power as laying the foundation for today's future.

Current challenges

"What these early, intrepid Airmen demonstrated in those frail (World War I) aircraft ... how they began to think and organize ... how they forever changed warfare they have given us a sense of perspective and a way to understand our future," he said.

Also, in understanding the future course for the Air Force, there are current challenges that must be met.

General Moseley cited three challenges the Air Force must tackle: focus on fighting the war on terrorism, continue to develop Airmen and recapitalize and modernize the inventory.

Air Force priorities

The Air Force has been involved in the war on terrorism for more than 1,400 days. After such a long time, as with most tasks, an air of complacency can set in, he said.

"Let me be clear: We cannot now, nor ever, lose sight of the fact that the mission of the United States Air Force is to fly and to fight," General Moseley said. "We fly and we fight ... that's what we do."

It's the Airmen who fly and fight, and training those Airmen is an Air Force priority.

"To meet these challenges, we must continue to look for better ways to ... exploit the air and space domain."

— General Moseley



"We clearly have the best people in the world," he said. "If we are going to ask our Airmen to defend this nation, then we owe it to them to give them the best opportunities for career development ... and give them the best possible standard of living and the best possible training."

The general said the Air Force must continue to make the training more realistic and find the right mix of joint, coalition and composite force training.

For the Air Force to train and fight, it has to have the proper equipment to ensure mission success.

"Old equipment is not a new problem," General Moseley said. "We are operating the oldest inventory of aircraft in our history."

The average age of the fleet has gone from 8 1/2 years old in 1967 to an average of 23 1/2 years old today, he said.

General Moseley commented on the way ahead for the Air Force and the four points that will drive its future.

The future total force must be not only adaptable to today's fight, but also tomorrow's fight and equally adaptable to unknown applications.

It must be seamless among the active duty, Guard and Reserve components.

It must operate in a joint environment.

It must be affordable.

Look for better ways

"To meet these challenges though, we must continue to look for better ways to operationally exploit the air and space domain," the general said.

General Moseley also spoke of the innovativeness and execution the early pioneers of the Air Force used to overcome obstacles in their path.

"The pioneers have given us a proud combat heritage, a heritage that speaks to us today," he said. "Their work, their ideas, and their courage propel us toward an unlimited horizon of opportunity which is the birthright of your Air Force."

'... when someone asks ...'

"So when someone asks you what the Air Force will be doing in the future, tell them this: We will do what we have always done," he said. "We will stand on the shoulders of giants. We will take care of each other and every member of this great fighting force. We will innovate. And ... we will fly ... we will fight ... and we will win."

IN THE NEWS

Base-wide barbecue

An "After Hurricane Katrina Barbecue" is noon until dark Oct. 14 in marina park.

Home Depot sponsors the event and provides \$4,000. US Foods provides hamburgers, hot dogs, black beans, disposable cups and ice cream cups.

Beer is \$.50 per cup. Soft drinks are free.

Outdoor recreation provides grills, charcoal and picnic tables.

The rock band Illbreak is scheduled to perform.

Shuttle buses will be available at times and locations to be determined.

Death notification

The death of Lt. Col. Marc Murphy, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, is announced by Brig. Gen. James Dougherty, 81st Medical Group commander.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of Colonel Murphy should contact Lt. Col. Kevin Blakeley, summary court officer, at 377-8485.

SGLI coverage took effect Sept. 1

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage increased to \$400,000 on Sept. 1, Department of Defense officials said.

Service members eligible for SGLI are automatically insured for the maximum coverage. The monthly premium remains \$3.25 per \$50,000 of coverage, so the monthly premium for full coverage is now \$26.

The new SGLV 8286 form is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site, <http://www.insurance.va.gov>.

Uniform policy changes

The uniform of the day for Air Education and Training Command is now the battle dress uniform or flight suit.

"Wearing our BDUs and flight suits as our duty uniform every day will serve as a constant reminder to us and those who we meet that our job is to support our fellow Airmen," said Gen. William Looney, AETC commander. However, the desert camouflage uniform isn't authorized.

Exceptions to the policy include retirements, promotions, change-of-command ceremonies or visits with dignitaries when the blue service uniform is more appropriate. For temporary duty travel, wear civilian clothes or some combination of the blue service uniform.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submission to the Oct. 13 issue of the Keesler News is noon today, four days earlier than usual, due to the Columbus Day federal holiday Monday.

The Keesler News office is closed Monday in observance of the holiday.

Agencies answer town hall meeting questions

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

During the town hall meeting Sept. 29 questions were raised about Hurricane Katrina-related entitlements and military and civilian personnel issues by Keesler-based military and civilian workers.

Agency representatives have answered some of the questions from the meeting.

Will I receive entitlements or per diem if I travel to get my family while at their safe haven location?

Only if your family is unable to return on their own. The member requires temporary duty orders to be an escort, and will be able to use the

government travel card.

My home is habitable. Can I bring my family home?

Yes, if the house is livable. Dependant entitlement, however, ends when they return home.

How can I get my medical records?

Medical records are only being provided to those with urgent needs, such as a reassignment. If you require your records, contact your military personnel flight to help coordinate with the 81st Medical Group.

Dependants are being told to move out of dorms. Where can we go, and how are we to pay for it?

Dependants in the local area still

draw per diem if your home is not habitable to help offset the cost of lodging.

School buses are picking up children behind the base exchange in an unlit area. For safety reasons, can the route be moved to another location?

Base leadership will get with the Biloxi school district to work out a change.

How long does it take to get a FEMA trailer?

If you have signed up with your local FEMA center, check back with them regularly to find your position on the list.

In order to get homes for all the displaced families, will the Housing

office forgo certain standards, such as painting before moving, to ensure a quick turnaround for people that need homes?

We have relaxed standards to have a quick turnaround time, but housing still has to enforce some of them. Check with housing office.

My house was destroyed, and I still have to pay a mortgage. Do I still draw entitlements if I'm living in billeting?

No, entitlements end if you are in billeting. Your family will draw entitlements if you are unable to inhabit your home.

1st Lt. Adam Rondeau, 81st Training Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this report.

7 Keesler majors advance in rank

Seven Keesler majors have been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel:

334th Training Squadron — Tony Harper.

81st Training Support Squadron — Lance Kawane.

81st Civil Engineer Squadron — Jeffery Szatanek.

81st Comptroller Squadron — Richard Fogg.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Arthur Durkin Jr. and David Roll.

81st Transportation Squadron — Steven Foss.

Capasso,

from Page 1

since April 2004.

He turns over to General Capasso command of 12,000 Airmen and civilians providing technical training for officers, enlisted and civilians of the Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force reservists, as well as Department of Defense agencies.

General Capasso's previous assignments include Langley AFB, Va.; Izmir Air Base, Turkey; the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Schriever and Peterson AFBs, Colo.; and Randolph AFB, Texas.

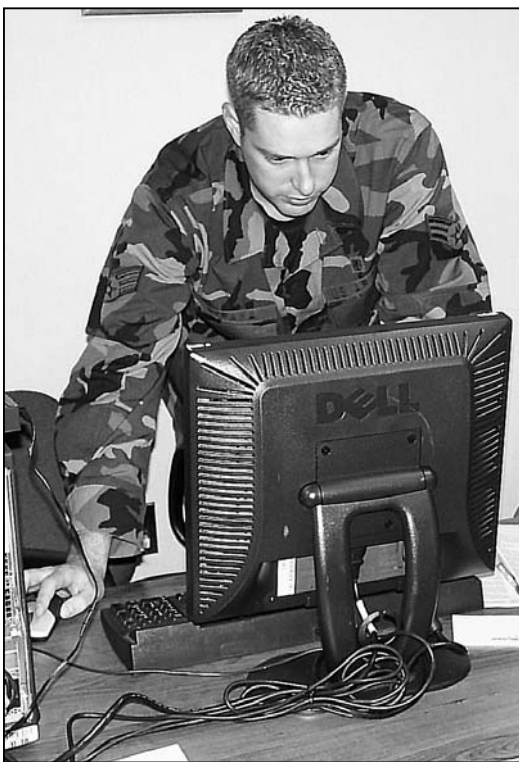


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Senior Airman Casey Straka, a pharmacy technician assigned to the 81st MDSS pharmacy flight, activates a prescription for a patient in the temporary medical clinics in the dental clinic. After activating new prescriptions in the clinic area, patients may pick them up at the temporary pharmacy located in the clinical research laboratory, next door to the base veterinarian's office.

Medics,

from Page 1

risk patients needing follow-up ... although the care might not necessarily be at Keesler, it may be provided in the Tricare network," Major Durkin said.

He added the immunization clinic is going to relocate to the medical clinic area in the dental clinic and should be functional soon.

The major urged anyone with a true medical emergency to call 911 or go to the nearest civilian emergency room since Keesler is incapable of providing emergency services at this A women's health clinic and physical therapy clinic are initially available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the family practice area of the dental clinic, said Col. (Dr.) Virgil Jefferson, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron commander.

Routine dental care is offered 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the dental clinic. Col. (Dr.) Kenneth Levin, 81st Dental Squadron commander, said dental care is for active duty only. He encouraged eligible military members to call the clinic, 377-3003, for appointments.

The pharmacy is also taking steps to improve service.

Col. John Quirk, 81st Medical Support Squadron's phar-

macy flight commander, said the flight is obtaining three 1,000-square-foot modular trailers to reconfigure as a pharmacy. The facility will be located near the shoppette on Meadows Drive and should be operational in about six weeks.

"We will bring in some of the same type of modern PharmAssist® equipment that had been used in the destroyed satellite pharmacy in the base exchange," Colonel Quirk said. "The equipment is bar-code driven for patient safety."

"The same equipment will be installed in the medical center pharmacy that was being renovated when Hurricane Katrina struck," he said. "We also plan a drive-through for the convenience of our patients."

The trailer-based facility will fill civilian prescriptions and provide support to the clinics, according to the colonel. He also said the pharmacy hopes to return the refill service to Keesler from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Biloxi.

Colonel Quirk is optimistic the pharmacy will be operating in its newly-remodeled location in the medical center in January.

"We'll continue to use the modular structure as our satellite pharmacy until the facility in the base exchange is rebuilt," he said.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Headphone guidance for PT uniforms

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force officials issued guidance for the wear of headphones while wearing the official physical training uniform.

Airmen dressed in the PT uniform are authorized to wear headphones while participating in personal fitness and other off-duty activities said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here. However, headphones can't be worn in formation, during organized unit physical training sessions or while performing official duties.

Commanders may further deny headphone wear if conditions are determined to be unsafe. They may also disallow headphone use because of operational requirements, officials said.

Air Force component commanders coordinate wear policy with the combatant commander to ensure uniformity for Airmen deployed to joint environments.

For more information, contact your commander's support staff or military personnel flight.

Air Force tests officer assignment system

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force conducts a test of a continuous officer assignment system for a select group of career fields beginning this month.

The test system, designed as the result of a lean process review, seeks to eliminate the vulnerable-to-move list and facilitate deliberate career moves through force development. Lean is a way of streamlining processes and making them more efficient by removing waste, reducing cycle time and improving customer satisfaction.

The test system is also expected to reduce permanent change-of-station costs by eliminating unnecessary moves, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

The current system works fine, but can be improved by adapting it to the tenets of the force development construct, said Col. Lee Hall, AFPC director of assignments.

The test and validation process, scheduled to begin with assignment actions after today, includes officers in the civil engineer career field on the mission support side. Also included are rotary-wing pilots and fixed-wing special operations/combattant search, as well as rescue pilots, navigators, fire control officers and electronic warfare officers (UH-1, MH-53, MH-60, HH-60, CV-22, AC-130, HC-130, MC-130 primary major weapon systems, regardless of current duty specialty) from the rated community.

For more information, visit the Air Force assignments Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/> or contact the AFPC assignments team

Civilian career information

Air Force civilians can access the virtual Civilian Career Brief through the AFPC secure Web site, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/default.asp>.

Once on the AFPC secure Web site, select "Civ Career Brief" from the button menu.

New CCB users need to establish an account.

Emergency contacts for civilians

The emergency management data system is a Web-based method for civilians to input personal emergency contact information.

For more information or to register, visit <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/emds/default.htm>.

2005 Air Force Climate Survey available online

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen have the power to shape the future by participating in the 2005 Air Force Climate Survey launched Saturday.

"The direction we take depends on you!" said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. "The motto of

the 2005 climate survey, 'Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow,' accurately reflects the impact this survey has on our Air Force.

"It's your chance to provide honest and straightforward answers to issues that directly affect you and your fellow Airmen," he added. "Your identity is protected and every response is

reviewed for consideration."

The survey, offered every two years since 1997, measures how people feel about leadership, supervision, training, recognition and other aspects of the Air Force.

This year's survey also measures enduring competencies such as effective communication, teamwork, judg-

ment and adaptation under pressure.

The survey provides a total force perspective and includes active-duty members, civilians, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard.

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online from a government or personal computer at <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil/>.

Most 2004 FEGLI elections effective early in September

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Federal employees who elected or changed their Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance during last year's open season had their elections take effect the first day of the first pay period that began on or after Sept. 1.

For most Air Force-serviced civilian employees, the effective date was Sept. 4, as long as the employee meets the following pay and duty status requirements:

Full-time employees must be in a pay and duty status for at least 32 hours during the pay period before Sept. 4.

Part-time employees must be in a pay and duty status for one-half of the regularly scheduled tour of duty shown on their current SF 50, Notification of Personnel Action, during the pay period before Sept. 4.

Intermittent employees or employees without a regularly scheduled tour of duty must be in a pay and duty status for one-half the number of hours they usually work a pay period during the pay period before Sept. 4.

Some unusual situations Air Force-serviced employees may face are:

The FEGLI 2004 open season election was submitted while working for another agency. If the election doesn't become effective, the employee should contact a Benefits and Entitlements Service Team benefits counselor for assistance.

Individuals on leave-without-pay-US status (for active military duty) who submitted an open season election. The election is held until the individual returns to civilian duty. The coverage becomes effective after the employee returns to civilian duty and meets the pay and duty status requirements described above.

Individuals who resigned from employment after submitting a FEGLI 2004 open season election. If they returned to federal service with a break in service of less than 180 days, the new coverage is processed when pay and duty status requirements are met. If the break in service is 180 days or more and employees return to federal service on or before Sept. 4, they may make a new FEGLI election on return to employment. The new election takes

precedence over the open season election. If the individual doesn't make a new election, the coverage in effect at separation is reinstated, including the open season election when pay and duty status requirements are met.

Employees who were called to active military duty in the Reserve or National Guard before Oct. 1, 2004, may submit a belated FEGLI open season election within 31 days of returning to a covered civilian position.

Employees who were sent overseas in a civilian military support capacity before Oct. 1, 2004, may submit a belated FEGLI 2004 open season election within 31 days of returning to a covered position that is not in a military support capacity.

Air Force-serviced civilian employees whose open season elections become effective Sept. 4 should've seen the new coverage and premium deductions on their Sept. 23 leave and earnings statement.

Employees are encouraged to review their LES to ensure the coverage and premium deduction is correct. If there are any problems, they should contact a BEST benefits counselor for assistance.

Employees who don't meet the pay and duty status requirements see their open season election become effective the pay period after the one in which they meet the requirements.

Employees can contact a benefits counselor by calling toll-free 1-800-616-3775. When the system answers, people can press "2" for Air Force-serviced civilian, then "2" again for BEST benefits and entitlements and follow the prompts. When the benefits main menu is voiced, people can press "4" for Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, then "0" to transfer to a benefits counselor.

Hearing-impaired employees may contact a benefits counselor by calling toll-free TDD 1-800-382-0893.

Counselors are available weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Rich Mudd and his wife Glenda, of Biloxi, shop in the temporary commissary on opening day, Sept. 29.

Photos Kemberly Groue



Commissary now open, all dining halls back on schedule

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The temporary commissary and all functional dining facilities are now open.

The Keesler Community Center's parking lot was full of patrons waiting in anticipation of opening day at the temporary commissary Sept. 29.

The store's hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily. The entrance and parking is located at the south side of the building, facing the main exchange parking lot. Permanent party civilians are authorized to shop in the temporary facility.

All base dining facilities are now open except for the one located in the medical center. The facilities are open during their pre-Katrina times.

Live Oak Dining Facility — breakfast is 5:15-7:15 a.m.; lunch is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner is 5-7 p.m. The facility is closed on weekends and holidays.

Pecan Dining Facility — breakfast is 5:15-7:45 a.m.; lunch is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner is 5-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Weekend and holiday hours are: breakfast - 7:30-9 a.m.; lunch - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner is 4:30-6:30 p.m. Open for the 403rd Wing UTA 6:30-7:30 a.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Azalea Dining Facility — Breakfast is 4:15-7 a.m.; lunch is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner is 5:30-7:30 p.m. The facility is closed on weekends and holidays.

Magnolia Dining Facility — Breakfast is 4:15-6 a.m.; lunch is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner is 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Weekend and holiday hours are: breakfast - 7:30-9 a.m.; lunch - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and dinner is 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Flight Kitchen — open around the clock.

There is a charge for meals for people not on meal cards or government meal orders.

Spouses and dependent children of active-duty personnel E-1 through E-4 pay a la carte less the surcharge.

Personnel on temporary duty to Keesler drawing per diem, dependents of all other active-duty personnel, Defense Department employees, other federal employees at Keesler and base contract personnel pay a la carte plus the surcharge.

Other open base facilities include:

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service recently opened a home furnishings store, which carries furniture, appliances and TVs. The store is located at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Drive. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Military clothing sales, located in the mini-mall on Ploesti, is open 9: a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Mini-mall - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Seattle's Best Coffee — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the mini-mall.

Service station — attended fueling 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Unattended fueling available 24 hours a day.

Service bays are open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Retail store hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dawg Daze hot dog cart — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Welch Theater — Showtimes are: Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Triangle Barber Shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Triangle laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Triangle Alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday

At Ease embroidery/unit apparel — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

Czee Zone Internet Café — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

GNC — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette, Class Six/shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

81st Services Division

Child development center is now open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., but has a new priority system in place.



Violet Barrett, center, checks out customers at the temporary commissary while retired Army Sgt. Maj. Dennis Mire, right, bags their groceries.

The first is dual and single military who are mission-essential. Priority two is mission-essential military with civilian spouses who work at Keesler. The third priority is nonappropriated fund employees who can't come to work without child care and are considered mission essential. For more information, call 377-2211.

McBride Library — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. A fax service and copy machine are available for a nominal fee; videos and DVD movies available and free internet service available.

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Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to midnight daily.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Muse Manor mini-mart — 7 a.m. to midnight daily.

Vandenberg Community Center — open for E-4 and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday - Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Alcoholic beverages available 6-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Half Time Café — noon to 10 p.m. Sunday, 5-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 5 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Car wash is open 24/7.

Youth activities center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Gaudé Lanes — 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 3-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Open to Keesler personnel and relief workers only.

Bay Breeze Golf Course, Dragon and Triangle fitness centers, arts and crafts center, outdoor recreation, Keesler Club and the information ticket and travel office, Keesler Community Center and enlisted lounge are closed.

Banking

Keesler Federal Credit Union is open for limited service from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Keesler's branch is operating in an off-line mode, but will be able to handle cash withdrawals, or checks, being cashed up to \$400 per person per day.

Since the branch is in an off-line mode, processing other requests, such as applying for loans, is limited. New accounts can be opened for base personnel and temporary tenants such as FEMA, MEMA and Red Cross.



Photo Kemberly Groue

Gail Raymond, left, gives Chuck Gordon, 338th Training Squadron, a haircut at the Triangle mini-mall. The barber shop's hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open, 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of Highway 90. The Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. The Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Mail

Beginning Tuesday, mail for Harrison Court, Bayridge, Pinehaven and Oak Park housing areas can be picked up at the Keesler Post Office between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Mail is no longer available in Building 901. There's an excess of mail for residents in Pinehaven and Harrison Court.

Personnel who received mail at the Mail Bag now receive it at the Levitow Training Support Facility in Room 109A.

There's normal mail service in East Falcon, West Falcon, Thrower Park and permanent party dormitories.

Pets

Displaced pets — About 12 pets are still in Alabama at Maxwell Air Force Base's Safe Pet Haven. Pets need to be picked up from there as soon as possible.

Veterinary Clinic — 8 a.m. to noon, Mondays-Fridays, for over-the-counter sales.

Customers wishing to make appointments to have their pets vaccinated or to have their sick pets seen, should call 377-6883.

Marina

The marina is now located in Building 6734, the enclosed pavilion in the marina park.

Keesler Kantina, a lounge for E-5 and above, in the old marina.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Post-hurricane assistance continues to flow

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Post-hurricane assistance comes in many forms from base offices, government agencies, charitable organizations and businesses.

Some banks and businesses are allowing customers affected by the hurricane to forgo payments for 90 days without late fees or penalties on mortgages, home equity loans, credit card balances, consumer and student loans and other payments. In some cases, banks will increase credit lines to help with additional expenses.

Call businesses individually to ask for assistance. Ask for payments to be added on to the end of a payment period, rather than a balloon payment for several months due at one time.

American Legion

Current American Legion members who are active-duty members or belong to the National Guard or Reserves impacted by Hurricane Katrina may qualify for cash grants up to \$1,500. Apply by phone, 1-800-433-3318, or online, <http://www.legion.org>.

Area Defense Counsel

Keesler's office is now in Room 174, Thomson Hall. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions.

For appointment, call 377-8029.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. A six-month no-interest, no-payment plan also applies to new purchases through Friday, and \$500 credit limit increases are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

BAS

A Department of Defense memo dated Sept. 27 authorizes Airmen assigned to Keesler to receive free meals without a reduction in their basic allowance for subsistence for 60 days to lessen financial hardship due to the hurricane.

Chapel

The Fishbowl in the Levitow build-

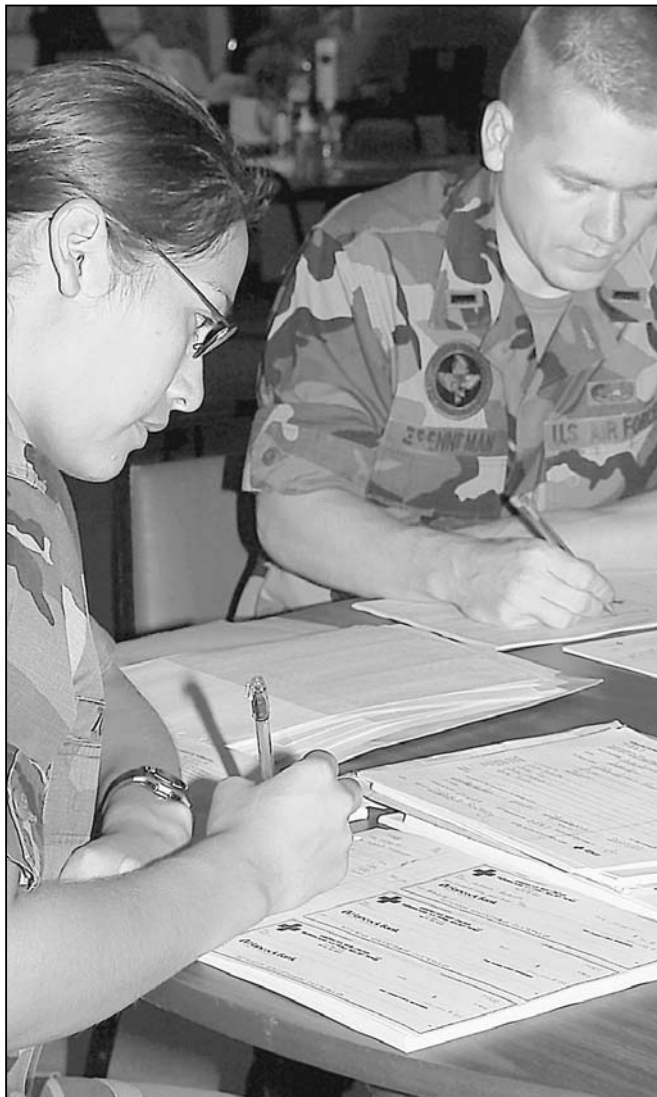


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Capt. Karen Zuebisch, left, and 1st Lt. Scott Brennehan fill out hurricane relief checks for the American Red Cross Sept. 28 at the Joppa Temple Shrine facility in Woolmarket. They're from the 333rd Training Squadron.

ing is a hub for chapel, family support and life skills services. Chapel teams are deployed here to assist the staff.

Clothing

Harrison County's clothing distribution headquarters, in a tent in the parking lot of the Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Extended child care

Military and civilians affected who

are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

Civilian information

Civilians may call 1-800-307-3298 or visit <http://www.opm.gov> to con-

nect with department or agency contacts and obtain information various benefits.

Civilian counseling

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Family support center

At the Levitow building, active-duty members can apply for Air Force Aid Society loans and get other information and referrals.

A retiree service center is located in Thrower Park.

In Chapel 1, an annex is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays with clothing, food, baby and cleaning items for all ranks.

Federal aid for civilians

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane LKatrina.

For more information, go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml>. or call Sheila Noel, 377-7973.

Finance

The 81st Comptroller Squadron, second floor of the Vosler Center, is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays. For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Food stamps

Food stamp information is available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>.

Government travel card

The government travel card, for official travel expenses while in a travel status, isn't authorized for use here at Keesler.

Personnel who lost their card in the hurricane need to report the loss and request a new card immediately.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for payment of government travel card accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used government travel cards for prepaid transactions that were not used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for

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credit. Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable.

For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

Leave transfer

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave for transfer to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane so they won't have to use their own annual or sick leave. Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be contributed to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Legal office

Aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246 in the Levitow building.

A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon Monday-Wednesday.

The staff cautions personnel to read "fine print" on loans, grants and insurance settlements before signing.

For appointments, call 377-5404.

Natural disaster form

The Air Force Personnel Readiness Center has established a natural disaster registration form at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>, where people can provide evacuation and safe haven information. For more information, call 1-800-435-9941.

OneSource

Air Force OneSource offers 24/7 support and advice on how to tap into resources available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Air Force Aid Society and American Red Cross. Call 1-800-707-5784 or visit <http://www.airforceonesource.com>. Use "airforce" as user ID and "ready" as password.

Pharmacy services

Keesler's pharmacy is operating out of a separate office at the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Refills are sent overnight to the Keesler

pharmacy at the VA for pickup at Building 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Allow four days from activation to pickup. Patients must present their current, valid military identification. Those picking up prescriptions for someone else must provide written authorization.

Customers in the local area, call 377-6360. Other Mississippi customers call 1-800-443-6564.

Customers in Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana call 1-800-422-9291.

Tricare is working with retail pharmacies to maintain customer access to prescription benefits.

For mail order pharmacy benefit information, call 1-866-363-8667. For questions about the retail pharmacy program, call 1-866-363-8779.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Salvation Army

Information about Salvation Army assistance is available at <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>.

TMO

The traffic management office in Room 211 of the Levitow building is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, call 377-0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

Tricare

Beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Katrina don't need approval before seeing a medical provider outside the Tricare system.

Beneficiaries who've moved to a new location, temporary or permanent, must update their personal information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System by calling 1-800-538-9552 or visiting <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS/update-info.cfm>.

For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> or call 1-800-363-2273.

Uniforms

Base supply now has enough uniforms and boots for people who incurred losses during the storm.

USAA

USAA closed its Keesler catastrophe office Friday.

For claims or updates, call 1-800-374-9416 or 1-800-774-9303.

When you give blood, you give the gift of life.

Housing office continues to help base residents get back home

By Senior Airman

Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The housing office, located in Chapel One, is continuing to reassign and move family housing residents into livable units on base.

Since Hurricane Katrina, 120 people have moved into other homes, 46 have moved to off-base locations and 160 residents have been able to return to their homes, according to Brett Long, assistant family housing chief.

Out of 1,820 total military family housing units, only about 850 were habitable after the hurricane.

"Housing residents are urged to check-in with the housing office when they arrive back on base from their safe haven location to ensure accountability and to inform the housing office what the residents intentions are — whether it's to move back into housing, if they're being reassigned to a new base or moving off-base," said Mike Reese, housing flight chief, during last week's town hall meeting.

The housing office is also providing portable-on-demand-storage containers to residents who have salvaged items from their homes.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Ray Turner, left, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, helps Laura Wascom, and Jaime Lepeyrouse sign for a POD. Mrs. Lepeyrouse is the wife of Staff Sgt. Jason Lepeyrouse, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

As of Thursday, 158 PODS have been issued. The housing office had ordered about 300 total containers, which are arriving and being filled daily, Mr. Long said.

Also, the MFH office is sending out daily e-mails with homes, apartments and land to rent off base. For more information, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

Master Sgt. Lori Orslene, 81st Mission Support Group, puts salvaged items from her Ocean Springs home into a POD. More than 300 PODS are on Keesler for personnel who's homes were demolished by Hurricane Katrina.



Base events continue to be cancelled, postponed in aftermath of Katrina

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The following are events, annual campaigns, etc., that are taking place or have been postponed or cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina:

Annual Combined Federal Campaign — scheduled to kickoff Monday, postponed; awaiting a decision from the United Way.

Hispanic Heritage Month — Family Day Sunday, postponed.

The Keesler Officers' Spouses' Club's social and briefing — 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, 81st Training Wing conference room. The schedule includes a coffee social, followed by a Keesler and Katrina briefing by Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st TRW commander. For more information, call Cindy Lord, 377-1498.

Salute to the Military — scheduled for Oct. 17 at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum, postponed, may take place in November or December.

Intramural sports and other recreational activities — Gulfport SeeBee Base's Pine Haven Golf Course is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Active duty can golf free. For all others, cost is \$10 for a round. Bay Breeze Golf Course is closed until further notice.

Fitness centers — Blake Fitness Center is open from 4:30 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. The Dragon and Triangle fitness centers are



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The outfield of one of the Triangle softball fields sustained damage during Hurricane Katrina. The softball field hosted base intramural softball during the summer, the last intramural sport competed at Keesler before Hurricane Katrina hit in August.

closed until further notice.

Marina — relocated to Building 6734, the enclosed pavilion in the park. RV and dry storage is available and rental equipment is being issued. No resale items are being offered and no fishing trips have been scheduled. For more information, call 377-3160.

Gaudé Lanes — open from 3-10 p.m., Monday-Friday and 5-10 p.m. Saturday

and Sunday; 12 lanes available and no special events, military only.

Youth center — Super Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 6 and older. Free snacks, table games, music, video games and other fun activities. No entry fee. Saturday, dance revolution; Oct. 15, beach blanket bingo, and Oct. 29, Halloween party with prizes for best costume. For more information, call 377-

Maximize recycling options to minimize landfill waste

81st Civil Engineer Squadron

By maximizing source reduction and recycling options, Keesler can follow an environmentally-sound plan to minimize disposal of storm-related waste in landfills.

The Environmental Protection Agency has provided guidelines to minimize the health, safety and environmental risks associated with disposal of hurricane debris.

Certain hazardous materials should be separated for appropriate disposal, such as automotive and marine batteries, pesticides, automotive oils, fuels and petroleum fluids, antifreeze, solvents, paint, paint thinners and strippers,

compressed gas containers and electrical equipment such as distribution transformers, ballast and capacitors.

Other items that should be set aside for separate disposal are tires, air conditioner, scrap metal items, electronics, gasoline-powered motors and household appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers and stoves.

For more information, call Tom Minton, hazardous waste manager, 377-3004, or Rick Guillen, pollution prevention manager, 377-4816.

Base chapel staff serves before, during, after storm

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

As Hurricane Katrina's fury subsided, the depths of its destruction became obvious to Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Butler, the 81st Training Group's senior chaplain.

"After the security forces gave us the first reports, we came to the shocking awareness that situation was much more serious than we had expected," the chaplain said. "No one could have anticipated the severity."

During the storm, chapel staff members were in place to counsel, listen, pray and even help with child care in each of the base's shelters.

"We're blessed with a phenomenal team," Chaplain Butler noted. "Most of our staff are new to active duty and haven't been through anything like this before. We saw them rise to the occasion and shine. They were very creative in using their own personalities and gifts to get the mission accomplished."

As soon as base leadership received the first damage assessments, Chaplain Butler and Master Sgt. Al Clemmons, superintendent of chapel operations, made the rounds of the shelters to check on their staff.

"In such a crisis, there's so much pressure and loss," said Sergeant Clemmons, who arrived at Keesler only a month before Katrina struck. "Our staff members sustained great personal losses, but they remained sensitive to the needs of the people in the shelters and have done their jobs during the evacuation process, sheltering and ongoing recovery efforts."

"We had to jump in and make decisions, but it felt like we were flying blind," Chaplain Butler pointed out. Communication after the storm was virtually impossible, so he had no contact with the Air Education and Training Command chaplain for three days. Chaplain (Col.) Steven Sill, the 81st Training Wing chap-

Air Force chapels step up

Air Force Print News and Keesler News staff

In recent weeks, Air Force chapels have raised thousands of dollars to provide assistance for those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

As of Sept. 29, exactly one month after the storm, chapel communities have contributed \$387,926, according to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brett Oxman, who works budgeting issues for the chaplains office at the Pentagon.

"The Air Force chapel communities are being very generous and making sure our fellow Airmen and families are being taken care of," said Chaplain Oxman, who noted that donations came from around the world.

"As soon as we heard about the catastrophe, a letter was sent out to Air Force chapels asking them to take up offerings," said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, Air Force chief of chaplains. "Over the next two Sundays, money was collected. It is Air Force chapel people helping other Air Force families and whoever else is in need."

Most of the money is being sent to Keesler to be used in various ways, from gift certificates for clothing to buying food for immediate distribution.

"We've brainstormed to figure out the most creative ways to use the money so we can have the biggest impact," said Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Butler, 81st Training Group senior chaplain.

Other organizations, such as the American Red Cross and Air Force Aid Society, received money, too. Some of the deployed chapel teams in the affected areas have extended the generosity to area shelters which house evacuees.

Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein, Air Force Print News, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

lain, had to evacuate and there was no connection with him for five days.

Chaplain Butler had high praise for Keesler leaders in the first days following Katrina.

"Everyone was very professional and focused on supporting and taking care of people," he stressed.

The Fishbowl Student Ministries Center in the Levitow Training Support Facility sustained little damage, so it became a hub for family support, chapel and life skills services.

"People needed a place to go, so we kept the popcorn, drinks and snacks flowing," Chaplain Butler said.

Within a week of the storm, six chapel teams dubbed "Angel One" deployed to Keesler to augment the base's chapel staff for spiritual guidance,

recovery and humanitarian efforts. Each two-person team includes a chaplain and assistant.

Angel One's 30-day tour is done. Angel Two arrives this week with three teams.

"This time, we've asked specifically for a team to help our base chapel staff to reconstitute itself, assisting those who stayed and those who evacuated with one-on-one work," Chaplain Butler said.

"The other two teams will focus on humanitarian relief," he added. "The chapel handled these responsibilities before the 97th Air Expeditionary Group arrived. Now that they're leaving, we'll resume that mission. We have strong relationships with the churches downtown, which is where most of the aid is being channeled."

Retiring chief credits family, colleagues for cancer survival, career advancement

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Chief Master Sgt. Paula Campa, the 81st Training Group's chief enlisted manager, has retired with nearly 30 years of military service, with nearly 10 years in the top enlisted rank.

The Georgia native pursued a career as an information manager, but filled a variety of command and education-oriented billets since she joined the Air Force in 1976.

Keesler was her first duty station, followed by assignments at Howard Air Force Base, Canal Zone; McChord AFB, Wash.; Sembach and Ramstein Air Bases, Germany; and Maxwell AFB, Ala.

While at Maxwell, she earned a bachelor's degree in human resources management and a master's degree in management from Faulkner University.

She also served as command chief of Air University and vice president for campus relations for the Community College of the Air Force, both headquartered at Maxwell.

She returned to Keesler in 2003 as the 336th Training Squadron's superintendent before assuming her most recent position.

The chief said her husband, Fernando, retired from the Air Force in 1991 and supported her and cared for their four children while she pursued her military career and battled breast cancer.

Since she was diagnosed in February 2004, the support of her family, her training group colleagues and the treatment team at Keesler Medical Center helped her deal with two surgeries and four chemotherapy treatments so she could return to a job that she loved.

"You can't get through any cancer without the love and support of your military family, your blood family and a posi-



Chief Campa

tive attitude," Chief Campa pointed out. "Even when you are in remission, the prayers and constant well wishes from family and friends help you to maintain the spirit you need to combat this disease.

"Keesler's men and women kept me going because I had to look forward beyond breast cancer — the clinic and my peers kept me engaged," she continued. "I can't tell you the number of great meals, cards, flowers and e-mails I received — all welcomed and appreciated."

The chief said her accomplishments are a credit to the people who've believed in her and placed their trust in her.

"The Air Force has been great and I'm honored to have served, but the good Lord put me at Keesler," she insisted. "It was in his plans because he knew I needed the compassion of so many military members."

As her military career ends, Chief Campa remarked, "If I've touched one person in a positive way to make them see their service to this nation as a calling beyond themselves, then I can lay down my head at night knowing I've done the best I can do."

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Keesler triathletes compete before storm hits

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Before Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the base hosted a triathlon Aug. 26.

The athletes swam 200 meters in the Triangle pool, then biked six miles and ran two miles on I-81.

Here are the winners and their times in each category:

Overall — (male) Jeremy Gorline, 81st Training Wing, 32 minutes, 14 seconds; (female) Shannon Howard, civilian, 40:05.

18-29 — John Weaver, civilian, 35:17; Angela Waters, civilian, 40:44.

30-39 — Tim Cline, 81st Mission Support Group, 35:59; Joanna Williamson, Army, 45:32.

40-49 — Christopher Smilok, Air Force, 34:38; Lori Orslene, 81st MSGS, 49:57.

50-59 — Bob Clark, civilian 38:27; Peggy Gore, civilian 50:14.

60 and above — (male) Andy Alfonso, civilian, 52:13.

There were 76 participants for the event.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Peggy Gore swims at the Triangle pool during the triathlon Aug. 26. Gore finished first in the age 50-59 category for females. She's the spouse of Ronald Gore, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron.



Jeremy Forline, 81st Training Wing, prepares to start the bicycle portion of the event.



Competitors line up at the Triangle pool before the start of the event.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Basic electronic principles — Airmen Basic Willie Ferguson, Thomas Forte, James Gardner, Jesse Pentecost, Luke Rials, Jay Schneider and Matthew Smith; Airmen Alex Cousins and Dylan Edson; Airmen 1st Class Alexander Bower, Russell Hanyok, Derrick Koziol and Emrys Maier.

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Benjamin Barber, Paul Binder, Thomas Forte, Buddy Franklin, Scott Gingrich, Mathew Huntsman, Christian Webb and David Whitby; Airmen Alex Cousins, James Little, Cardarius Logan and Joseph Skopic; Airmen First Class Derrick Koziol and Joseph Thomas; Staff Sgt. Joshua Birch.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Classes haven't resumed yet.

First Term Airmen Center

Classes haven't resumed yet.

Keesler NCO Academy

Next class Nov. 7-Dec. 16 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. No decision has been made about other classes at this time.

PROMOTIONS

2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

Oct. 4-6 — blocked.

Oct. 11-21 — chief master sergeant evaluation.

Oct. 25-27 — Air National Guard colonel, second session.

Nov. 14-18 — colonel, lieutenant colonel and major MC, DC.

Dec. 5-16 — major line, CHAP, JAG, BSC, MSC.

TRANSITIONS

Employment assistance

National Reconnaissance Office — advanced education opportunities offered through the fiscal 2006 Air Force Institute of Technology program. Twenty-three positions are offered to meet the NRO's advanced academic degree needs starting in fall 2006; extremely competitive process for exceptional personnel. The NRO directly supports the undersecretary of the Air Force (space) and is a 100-percent selectively manned unit. After the degree is earned in the allotted time, candidates complete a four-year follow-on assignment in NRO space acquisition or operations. Most assignments in Washington, D.C., area. Applicants must meet AFIT eligibility requirements for academic average and Graduate Record Exam scores. Most personnel selected are non-rated captains and lieutenants. For more information and application requirements, call 1st Lt. Hanna Chang, 377-7018.

International affairs specialist — offers competitive officers at the mid-career opportunity to prepare for international political-military assignments to provide full career opportunity within their primary Air Force Specialty Code. Training begins in spring/summer 2006. Those who finish the two-program earn an advanced degree in specialties such as area studies, international affairs or national security studies., basic training in a spe-

CHAPEL SERVICES

Editor's note: This listing reflects changes to the worship schedule in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel.....10 a.m.

Tagalog worship

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, rosary; 5:45 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help novena; 6 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church, 2090 Pass Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-3887.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service.....11:30 a.m.

Triangle Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Jewish

Beth Israel Synagogue — was destroyed during the hurricane. The Jewish community has been authorized to hold Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) services in Larcher Chapel, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 13. Children's service is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 13. For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Kalman Dubov, 377-4859.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 4:30 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl.

cific language of their area of study, and possible advanced language training through in-country immersion. Officers must have at least seven years commissioned service and at least one year time on station as of June 1, 2006. Officers in medical, chaplain and judge advocate career fields aren't considered. For more information, go to <https://www.my.af.mil/iaw/iaw>, call Maj. Frank Swecosky, DSN 665-4071; the IAS team, DSN 425-8349 or 8321, or 1st Lt. Hanna Chang, 377-7018.

Employment assistance

Employment Network Center — 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3:45 a.m. working Fridays, Room 126, Sablich Center. National and local job search information and Internet computer access for active-duty and military family members, free e-mail service, fax service and computers and laser printers to complete resumes and federal job applications. For more information, visit Room 126, Sablich Center, or call 377-8593 or 8592.